

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 15, 16, 18, 20, 24, 27, 28, 31, 32 and 33 have been amended placing all the claims in clear condition for allowance. The above amendments do not add new matter. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Allowable Claims

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 1-38 would be allowable if amended to overcome objections for informalities, or rejections as being indefinite for failing to distinctly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, as set forth on pages 2-4 of the March 17, 2005 Office Action. Applicants submit that all of the claims as amended herein are in clear condition for immediate allowance for the following reasons.

Objection to Claims and 35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

Claims 1-38 were objected to for various informalities as detailed on page 2 of the Office Action. Further, claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 32-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph, for antecedent basis reasons as detailed on page 3 of the Office Action. In response, the following amendments have been made to traverse the objections and rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended to delete “cutting” along with an appropriate preposition change. Further, a grammatical change has been made to change “extend” to “extending.”

Claim 3 has been amended to address two antecedent basis issues.

Claim 4 has been amended to recite “section” instead of “portion.”

Claim 5 has been amended to grammatically change “extended” to “extending.”

Claims 6, 7, 9 and 32 have each been amended to address an antecedent basis issue.

Claims 16 and 18 have each been amended to insert two hyphens and two instances of “section.”

Claims 15, 20 and 33 have been amended for grammatical reasons.

Claim 24 has been amended to delete “cover” and to add “blade.”

Claims 27 and 28 has been amended to delete "machine" and add "device."

Claim 31 has been amended to change three occurrences of "third" with "second."

Applicants submit that the above claims objection and rejection should now be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the claims are in clear condition for immediate allowance and respectfully requests that the application be passed promptly to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicants hereby make a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 23-1951.

Respectfully submitted,



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